



Jeffrey L. McIntyre
President
West Virginia American Water
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Charleston, WV 25302

January 21, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
405 Capitol Street, Suite 508
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter on January 17 about the Freedom Industries chemical spill and its subsequent impact on 300,000 West Virginians. I appreciate your concerns and join in your efforts to ease the burden on these families and reinstate their confidence in our drinking water.

As you know, the release of 7,500 gallons of MCHM by Freedom Industries on January 9 severely impacted our Kanawha Valley system customers. From the moment we learned of the Freedom Industries chemical spill, our first priority was the safety of these customers. Now that we have lifted the last "Do Not Use" order, as of January 17 at 12:50 pm, I am committed to working with you and your colleagues in Congress, the federal government, and the State of West Virginia to provide information, address concerns, and work together to protect the nation's tap water from chemical spills.

In your January 17 letter, you raised three questions; provided below are my answers:

Are your tests showing that levels of crude 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) are rising in certain areas?

West Virginia American Water has taken a number of steps to provide water that is protective of human health and protect your constituents. We have conducted extensive testing of water samples taken from the impacted areas, including the river's raw water, finished water leaving the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant, and multiple points across the distribution system. Of the samples taken to date, the results show that the MCHM levels are consistently declining, not rising.

If so, what steps are you taking to protect the public from unsafe water?

Levels in the river's raw water and the plant's treated water have been non-detectable since Monday evening, January 13. However, given the lack of information about MCHM, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is advising pregnant women to consider an alternative source of water. Specifically, we have shared the following message from the CDC with our customers, "At this time, scientists continue to recommend 1 ppm as a protective level to prevent adverse health effects. However, due to limited availability of data, and out of an abundance of caution,



you may wish to consider an alternative drinking water source for pregnant women until the chemical is at non-detectable levels in the water distribution system.”

What steps are you taking to further eliminate crude MCHM from the water supply?

West Virginia American Water and our interagency partners continue to flush and test water throughout the water distribution system. We will collect and test water samples at designated locations until test results show no detection of MCHM in parts per billion at all sample points throughout the water distribution system served by the Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant.

In addition to these answers, please find enclosed the brochure on “Our Next Steps,” which contains more detailed information on sampling, testing, and future steps.

I would like to commend and thank the employees of West Virginia American Water who worked tirelessly with the National Guard, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and many other public servants and volunteers to restore access to drinking water.

Thank you for your leadership during the Freedom Industries chemical spill. I appreciate you taking immediate action to request an investigation into the chemical spill and your legislative efforts to hold responsible parties accountable. I am personally committed to working with you and every state and federal official to address ongoing concerns.

If you or your staff have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Laura Jordan, External Affairs Manager. I stand ready to meet with you at your convenience if you wish.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. McIntyre
President, West Virginia American Water